

# Primary Press

# Spring Is In The Air

When someone says the word spring what comes into your mind? Spring has come to mean the season of growth and new beginnings.

In springtime the days are getting longer, the weather is warmer and the birds are chirping. We begin to look with anticipated excitement at the emerging buds on the trees and the flowers poking up through the ground. Everyone enjoys shedding their heavy winter coats and getting outside and breathing the fresh air.

Take the children to your local park and pack a picnic lunch or bring your kite to fly. Walk the dog or ride bikes, but whatever you do, enjoy yourself outside.



There are few places that show the new beginnings of spring quite like a farm.



Baby ducks waddling behind their mothers, bleating baby lambs soft and woolen, and new horse foals with wobbly long legs trying to catch their mothers are all found at the farm during spring.

The day on a farm starts before the sun comes up. Everyone has chores to do, from mom and dad to the youngest of children. There are animals to feed, seeds to sow, cows to milk, eggs to gather, sheep to shear, grass to mow and tractors to drive.

Spend a weekend in the



country with Loudoun's
Spring Farm Tour, May 16 &
17, from 10:00 am to 4:00
pm. This self guided tour
will take you down country
roads to participating
farms where you can buy
seedlings, say hello to farm
animals, greet spring babies, and learn how food
gets from the farm to your
dinner table. To find out
more information or
download a brochure visit
www.loudounfarms.org.



The Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum is an interactive farming complex located on nine acres. The museum is dedicated to collecting, housing, researching and exhibiting objects, documents and photographs related to the history of (continued on page 2)

# County of Loudoun Family Services

Volume 6 Issue 3

April 2009



First cherry blossoms far above, a few white clouds

I watch butterflies



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## Spring is Sprung (continued from page 1)

agriculture and rural life in Loudoun County. The museum is Located at 21668 Heritage Farm Lane, Sterling, VA, 20164. For additional information please call 571-258-3800.

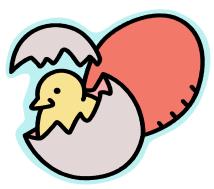
Temple Hall Farm Regional Park is a 300-acre working farm that provides an opportunity for children and adults to learn about farm animals and enjoy the sites and sounds of the farm. This farm is located at

15789 Temple Hall Lane, Leesburg, VA, 20176. For more information call 703 779-9372 or visit www.nvrpa.org/parks/templehall.



Great Country Farm in Bluemont is a wonderful family friendly place to visit. There are plenty of activities planned from hayrides to riding the cow train and watching all of the baby animals. Their country store has jams, jellies, local honey, fresh baked pies and goodies to welcome spring.

Great Country Farm is open daily from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm with an admission charge. For more information and a listing of festival weekends visit www.greatcountryfarms.com or call 540 554-2073.





























### Fun Activities to do With Your Children

Sing "Take Me Out to the Barnyard" sung to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."

Take me out to the barnyard Take me out there right now Show me the cows, pigs and horses

I hear an oink and a neigh and a moo There are chickens laying their eggs, If they don't lay it's a shame. Oh, it's one, two, three, eggs today, And, I'm glad that I came.



Make butter with children just like the farmers do, it is easy. All you will need is whipping cream, a pinch of salt and a baby food jar with lid. Pour the ingredients into the jar and close the lid tightly. Have the child shake until the cream turns into butter. Pour off any excess liquid. Spread the butter on crackers or warm toast and enjoy!





Play farm animal charades with your children. Have each child choose a picture of a farm animal with directions to keep the picture hidden from the rest of the group. Each child takes turns pretending to be the animal while the other children try and guess what they are. The child who guesses first gets to act out their animal next.

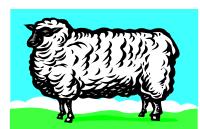
Have different grains (rice, oats, barley, wheat and corn) for the children to examine and feel. Discuss with the children the different shapes, sizes and how they look. You

can also have children glue grains on construction paper to make a collage.



Fit each child with a tape bracelet, sticky side out, one for each arm. Go for a walk to the park and let the children add seeds and small cones to their bracelets.

There are plenty of rhymes to teach children that go with a farm theme; Baa Baa Black Sheep, Little Bo Peep, Little Boy Blue, Mary Had a Little Lamb, This Little Pig, and Hickety, Pickety, My Black Hen.



Set up your own farm. Place a bale of hay or straw in a large plastic wading pool. Add different sizes of plastic farm animals, toy tractors and plastic people. Put on some down home music to set the mood and stand back and watch the children's imaginations go.

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### **Book Corner**

#### Spot Goes to the Farm

By Eric Hill

Spot the dog visits a farm and has many adventures searching for new babies among the farm animals.

#### The Icky Sticky Frog

By Dawn Bentley

This irresistible book combines silly googly eyes and a sticky, stretchy, snappy rubber tongue with a clever story for hands on fun.

#### Dooby Dooby Moo

By Doreen Cronin

Duck and his friends are pooling their considerable resources to win a local talent show where the grand prize is a trampoline.

#### Giggle, Giggle, Quack

By Doreen Cronin

Farmer Brown is going on vacation. He asks his brother, Bob, to take care of the animals. Bob follows the instructions in Farmer Brown's notes exactly. He orders pizza with anchovies for the hens, bathes the pigs with bubble bath, and lets the cows choose a movie. Find out what happens when Farmer Brown returns from his vacation.

#### Peggy Pig's Dirty Day

By Debbie Rivers-Moore

It's hard for Peggy to stay clean all day, especially after such a messy

start! With this cast of lively farm animals, this touch and feel book will become a favorite.





#### Sheep in a Jeep

By Nancy E. Shaw

In Sheep in a Jeep the rambunctious flock of sheep go for a drive in the country in of all things a jeep! Their misadventures will make you smile.



#### Little Bunny Follow His Nose

By Katherine Howard

Little Bunny's mother tells him to go outside and follow his nose. Little Bunny goes for a walk and comes across six things he can smell: roses, strawberries, pine needles, peaches, pickles and chocolate mint cookies. By scratching and sniffing treated strips disguised as part of the illustrations, the reader experiences the same smells as Little Bunny when he follows his nose through the countryside.

#### Baby Einstein: Touch and Feel

#### Farm Animals

By Julie Aigner-Clark

Curious babies will be introduced to animals that live on farms through endearing text and delightful illustrations.

#### Barnyard Dance!

By Sandra Boynton

This book is filled with cartoon animals that are wacky enough to make you laugh out loud, and rhymes clever enough to sustain reading this book over and over again.



#### Ten Sleepy Sheep

By Phyllis Root

Outside in the farmyard, ten lively lambs would rather play than go to sleep. Off they scamper; off they skip. But the sun is sinking, the stars are twinkling, sleepy eyes can't stay open, and one by one, ten drowsy sheep drop off to sleep in a cozy country countdown. With rhythmic language and pastoral scenes of lambs drifting off to sleep, the author and artist blend the perfect portion of ease spiriting little ones into sweet dreams.



#### Mrs. Wishy-Washy's Farm

By Joy Cowley

When Mrs. Wishy-Washy starts scrubbing all the animals on the farm, Duck, Cow and Pig run away to the big city. They get lost and stumble into a hardware store and get covered in paint! Where is Mrs. Wishy-Washy when they need her? This book will become a favorite to read before bath time.

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# County of Loudoun Family Services

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Email: childcareworkshop@loudoun.gov Web: www.loudoun.gov/childcare

Primary Press







# Planting A Theme Garden

Some children might be fascinated to learn about butterfly gardens and what plants attract first the caterpillars and then, later in the season, the nectar-seeking butterflies. A budding chef could research and grow gourmet vegetables. The key is to let the children use their imaginations and discover what interests them.

Create a pizza garden by planting a couple tomato plants, one plant each of basil, rosemary and oregano plus about six onion sets and one green and red pepper plant. Buy the plants in the spring but do not transplant them into your garden until all danger of frost is past then help the children prepare the soil. At harvest time

chop you tomatoes, and herbs to make a wonderful sauce to put on top of your pizza crust. Add red and green peppers along with cheese. How proud will the children be when they have grown their own pizza sauce?

Another fun activity to do with children is to grow a bean tepee. Pole



beans growing on a simple frame will quickly create a shady hideaway. You will need a packet of pole beans, three to six-foot-long bamboo stakes, a planting area about six foot square, straw for mulch and a two-foot length of string. Plant your beans after the last frost. Arrange your stakes in a circle, sticking them into the ground two feet apart. Gather tops of stakes and wrap with string. For quicker sprouting, soak bean seeds overnight then plant according to packet directions in a circle outside of the tepee base. Water well and place a two to three inch layer of straw over the soil to keep the weeds down. As the bean plants grow, tie the stems carefully to the tepee stakes. In six to eight weeks, the bean plants will cover the structure and the children can play inside the tepee.